

From: Ray Buckles
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 9:45am
Subject: USAGBuckles_Ray_1040_0124

USAGBuckles_Ray_1040_0124

**4226 Montgomery Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98274-8702**

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The Microsoft antitrust suit has lingered in the federal courts for nearly four years now. Last June, settlement negotiations began, and it was not until November that a settlement was finally reached. The settlement is pending approval, and next week, the courts will determine whether or not it should be finalized. Unfortunately, Microsoft's opponents would like to see Microsoft more harshly punished, and are seeking to undermine the settlement and bring additional litigation against Microsoft. I do not believe that this is at all necessary. I believe that it is in the best interest of the economy to halt litigation now and to settle the case on the terms proposed last November.

Microsoft and the Department of Justice have agreed on a broad range of terms under the settlement that restrict monopolistic actions on the part of Microsoft and require the corporation to effect a number of changes in product and procedure. For example, Microsoft will no longer be permitted to enter into contracts that would require a third party to promote or distribute Microsoft products at a fixed percentage. Microsoft also plans to revise future versions of Windows so that non-Microsoft software will be compatible with the Windows operating system. I do not believe the claims that Microsoft has been dealt with too leniently. Several conditions of the settlement actually extend to technologies and procedures that were not found to be unlawful by the Court of Appeals.

The antitrust case has dragged on long enough. I believe it is in the best interest of the public, the economy, and the technology industry to settle the case, and give Microsoft a chance to prove itself in the settlement before dismissing it out of hand. I urge you to allow the settlement to stand.

Sincerely,

Ray Buckles

MTC-00025874_0002